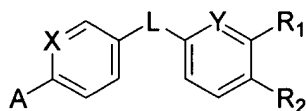


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS – Marked Up Version

Claims 1-23 are pending.

The following list of claims will replace prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I),

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, amide, ester, or prodrug thereof, wherein

A is aryl, ~~or heteroaryl~~ imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl or thienyl;

X is CH ~~or N~~;

Y is CH ~~or N~~;

L is -C(O)N(R₃)- ~~or N(R₃)C(O)-~~;

R₁ ~~and R₂ are independently~~ is hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, aryloxy, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, or halogen, ~~or heterocycle~~;

R₂ is hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, or halogen; and

R₃ is hydrogen ~~or alkyl~~.

2. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein

A is ~~heteroaryl~~ imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl or thienyl;

X is CH ~~or N~~;

Y is CH ~~or N~~; and

L is -C(O)N(R₃)-.

3. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein

A is ~~heteroaryl~~ imidazolyl, isoxazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyridinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl or thienyl;

X is CH;

Y is CH;

L is -C(O)N(R₃)-; and

R₁ and R₂ are independently hydrogen, alkoxy, alkyl, haloalkoxy, or haloalkyl.

4. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 3 that is

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-pyridinyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-nitro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;

4-(3-amino-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;

~~N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1H-tetraazol-5-yl)benzamide;~~

4-[3-(acetylamino)-2-pyridinyl]-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1H-imidazol-2-yl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-pyrimidinyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-cyano-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-thienyl)benzamide;

4-{3-[acetyl(methylsulfonyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl}-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;

4-(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;

methyl 2-(4-{[(4-tert-butylphenyl)amino]carbonyl}phenyl)-3-pyridinylcarbamate;

4-(3-{bis[(chloromethyl)sulfonyl]amino}-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(2-pyridinyl)benzenesulfonamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-pyridinyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-6-(1H-pyrazol-1-yl)nicotinamide;

~~N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2,4'-bipyridine-5-carboxamide;~~ N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(4-pyridinyl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(1,3-oxazol-2-yl)benzamide;

N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(3-methylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-methylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-methoxyphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-[3-(trifluoromethoxy)phenyl]benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(3,4-dimethylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-ethylphenyl)benzamide;
 4-(3-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-N-(4-isopropylphenyl)benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-[1-(methylsulfonyl)-1H-imidazol-2-yl]benzamide;
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzamide;
 N-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzamide;
~~4-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]-N-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-2-~~
~~pyridinyl]benzamide;~~
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-isoxazolyl)benzamide; or
 N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-(3-fluoro-2-pyridinyl)benzamide.

5. (Original) A compound that is 4-{3-[bis(methylsulfonyl)amino]-2-pyridinyl}-N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)benzamide.

6. (Original) A compound that is N-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-4-{3-[(dimethylamino)sulfonyl]-2-pyridinyl}benzamide.

7-11 (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The compound according to claim 1 wherein
 A is aryl;
 X is CH or N;
 Y is CH or N; and
 L is -C(O)N(R₃)-.

13-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19-23 (Cancelled)